

AARON · SAIZ · AZACETA · STEWART

PUNISHER



MARVEL 1

PARENTAL ADVISORY

OH MY
GOD!

AAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!!

HELLO?!
THEY'RE
SHOOTING IN
THE PARK!!!

I DON'T
KNOW, THERE
WERE A BUNCH OF
THEM SHOOTING EACH
OTHER AND THEY RAN
AWAY BUT THERE
ARE PEOPLE HERE
SHOT!

OH
LORD,
THERE ARE
CHILDREN!
PLEASE
HURRY!

GOD
ALMIGHTY,
THOSE
KIDS...

ARE THEY
ALIVE?!

THEY'RE IN...
PIECES.

SHE'S
BLEEDING LIKE
CRAZY! SOMEBODY
HELP ME STOP
IT!

I HEAR
THE SIRENS.
THEY'LL BE
HERE ANY--

AAARRRRGGH!!!

MARIA?

BUDDY,
YOU GOTTA STAY
STILL, YOU HEAR ME?
YOU BEEN SHOT A
WHOLE BUNCH, BUT
HELP IS ON THE
WAY.

MOVE!
EMTS COMING
THROUGH!

HHHHRRRAAGH!!!







FRANK
CASTLE...

...IS...

...THE PUNISHER...

...IN...

PUNISHER

THE KING OF KILLERS

Book ONE, Chapter ONE

"THE BLESSINGS OF WAR"

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GREECE. NOW.

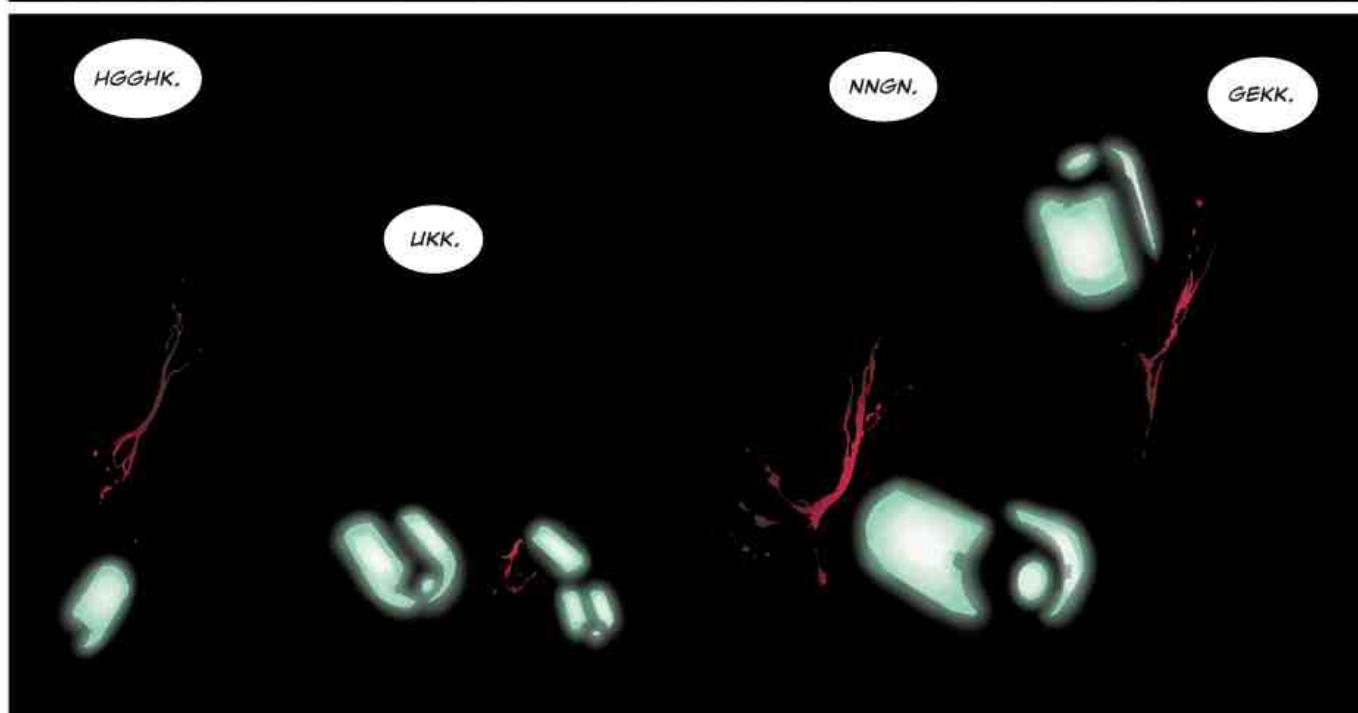
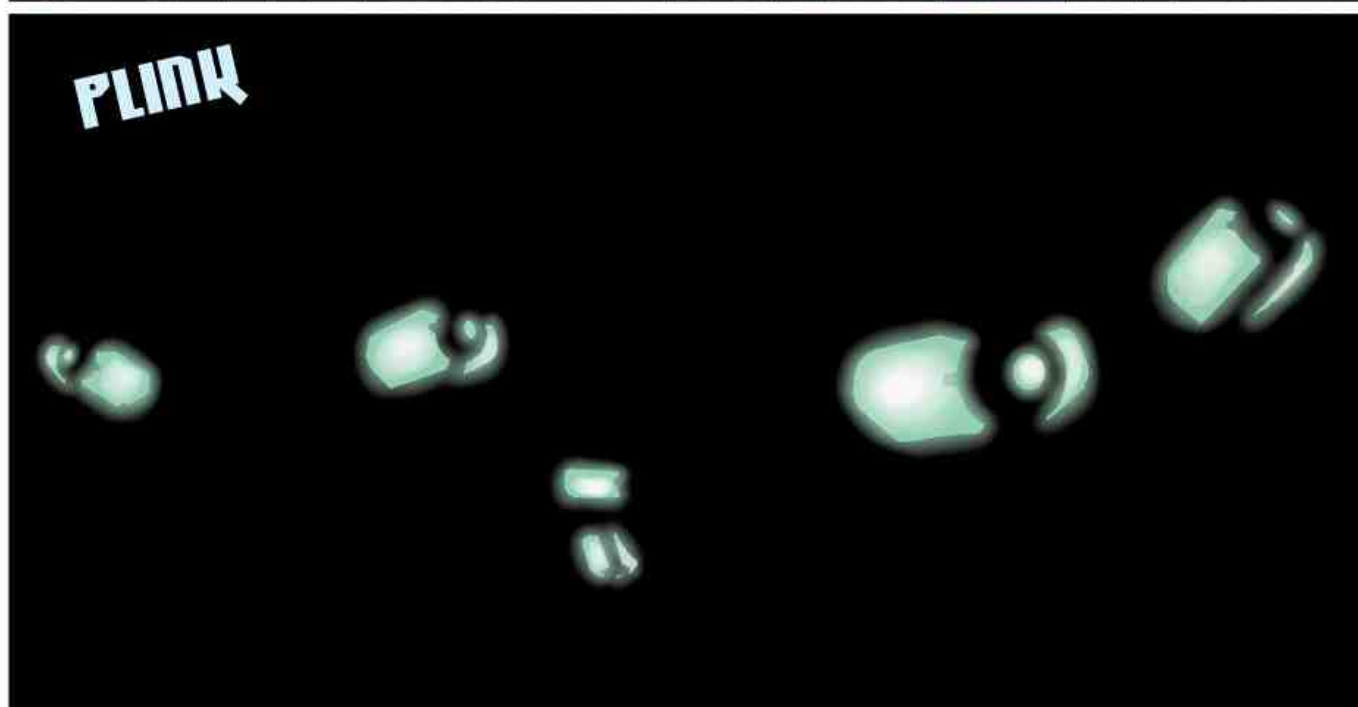
"BLESSED BE THESE FIVE THOUSAND ROUNDS OF ADAMANTIUM-TIPPED BULLETS."

"BLESSED BE THESE TWENTY CASES OF ASSAULT SCATTERGUNS WITH PYM PARTICLE SHOT."

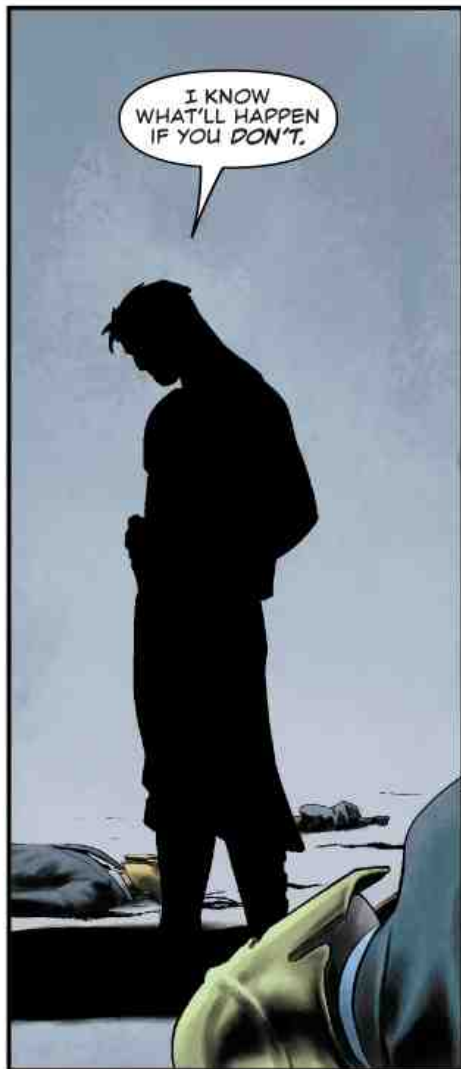
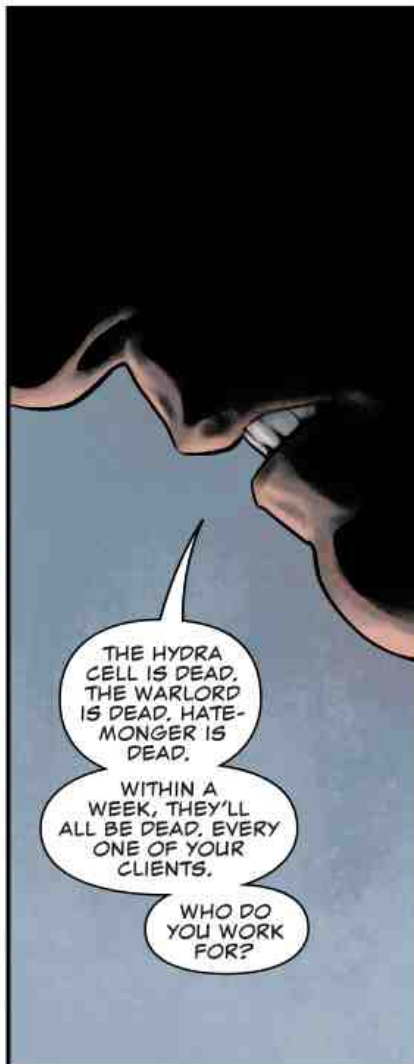
"BLESSED BE THESE THREE CRATES OF UNSTABLE-MOLECULE 'BUNKER-BUSTER' ORDNANCE."















OURS IS
A RABID
WORLD.

INFLECTING PAIN
ON ONE ANOTHER
WAS HUMANKIND'S
EARLIEST FORM OF
COMMUNICATION.

HHHRGH.



THIS IS WHY THE SICKLY
ONES WERE DRAWN HERE
CENTURIES AGO.

GHHHK.



HMPH.
NOT VERY GOOD
WITH THIS THING
YET.



TO SEED THE RED
WORD OF THE BEAST
IN FERTILE SOIL.

GUUURRGHH!



FOR THIS, THEY
NEEDED EARTHLY
DISCIPLES.



PROPHETS
OF SUFFERING.

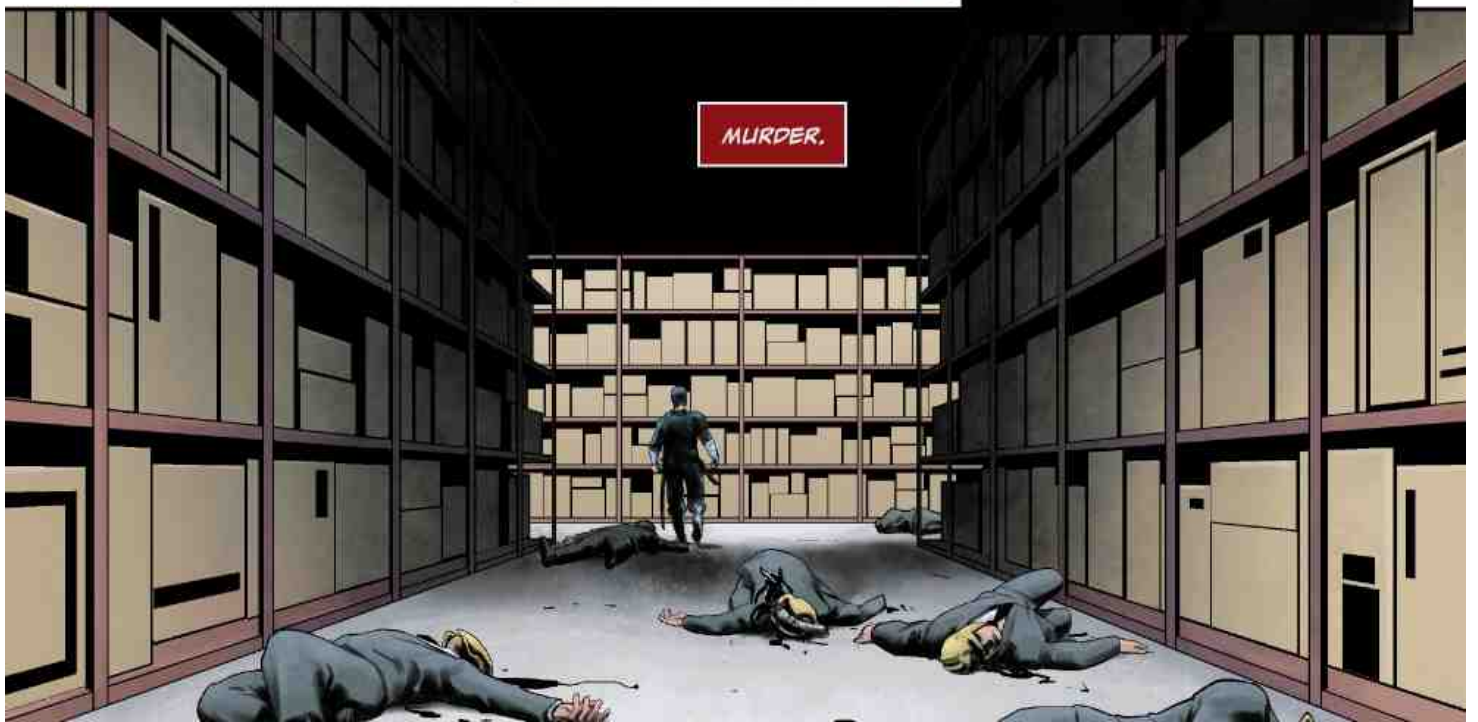


MONKS DEVOTED TO
THE PAINSTAKING
MASTERY OF THE FIRST
AND FINEST OF ALL
HUMAN ART FORMS.

TAKE THE
WEAPONS.
BURN THE
REST.



MURDER.





FOR THIS
UNHOLY
PURPOSE...

...THE HAND
WAS BORN.

FROM OUR CITADEL DEEP
WITHIN A FORGOTTEN
FOREST, A PLACE NO ONE
CAN FIND UNLESS THEY'VE
BEEN THERE BEFORE...

...WE SOLDIERS OF THE HAND
HAVE SERVED FOR MANY
CENTURIES AS THE WORLD'S
FINEST ASSASSINS FOR HIRE.

BUT OUR HIGHER GOAL HAS
ALWAYS BEEN THE MASTERY
OF KILLING ITSELF, TO BECOME
WALKING PEPIERS OF
ALL THAT GOD HAS MADE.

TO HONOR
THE BEAST,
ONE MURDER
AT A TIME.



THIS IS THE WAY OF
THE SICKLY ONES,
THE VETERANS OF
THE OLDEST WAR.

AND MY WAY AS
WELL... AS THE
ARCHPRIESTESS
OF THE HAND.

OUR NEW
HIGH SLAYER
RETURNS. I PRAY
THE WILL OF THE BEAST
HAS BEEN REALIZED IN
MOST EXQUISITELY
GRUESOME
FASHION.

EMPTIED A
WAREHOUSE.
BUT THEY'LL
HAVE
OTHERS.

STILL DON'T
KNOW WHO THESE
APOSTLES OF WAR
ARE WORKING FOR.
HAVE ALL AGENTS IN
THE FIELD KEEP AN
EYE OUT FOR MORE
SHIPMENTS.

IT
SHALL BE
DONE.

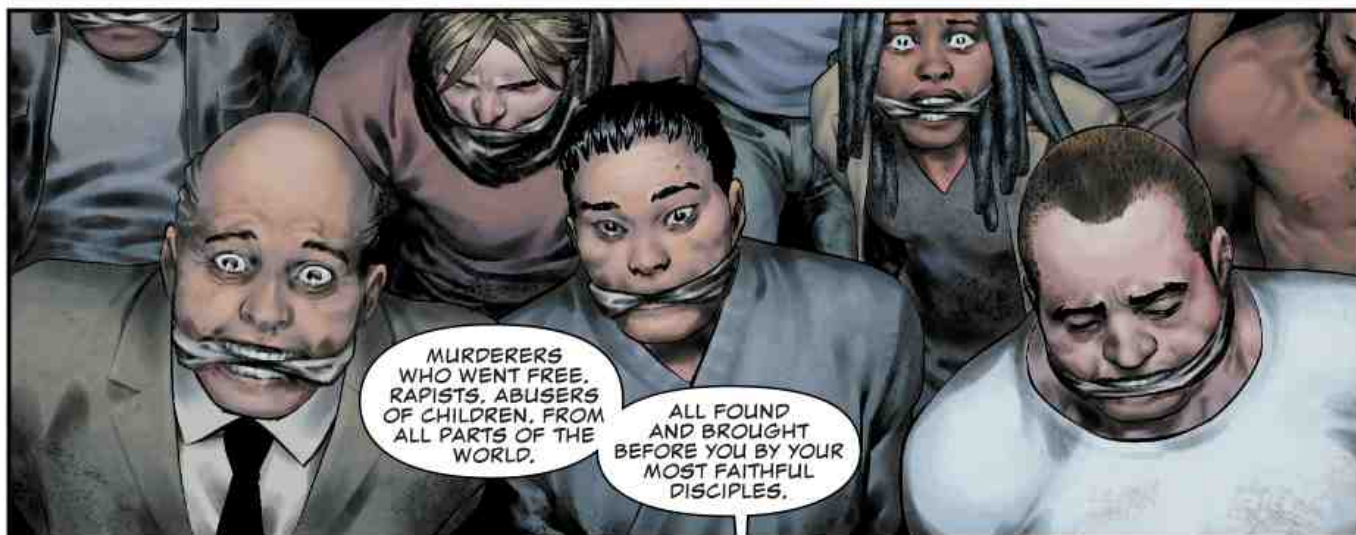
YOUR BLADE SMELLS WET. THE
SWORDMASTERS WILL BE PLEASED.
DID YOU EMPLOY THE SINGLE-
STROKE TECHNIQUE THEY'VE
BEEN TEACHING YOU?

THE
HUNTERS
BACK?

YES, BUT
WOULDN'T YOU
PERHAPS LIKE TO
RETIRE TO YOUR
CHAMBERS
FIRST FOR--?

I'LL
SEE THEM
NOW.





WEEKS EARLIER.

FRANK CASTLE IS
STILL ADJUSTING
TO HIS NEW ROLE.

THOUGH IN MANY
WAYS, IT IS NO
ADJUSTMENT AT ALL.

FOR YEARS NOW,
THE PUNISHER
HAS BEEN THE
WORLD'S MOST
ACCOMPLISHED
MASS MURDERER.

THE KING
OF ALL
KILLERS.

ALL I'VE
DONE...

...IS BRING HIM
HIS CROWN.



SO
BEGINS
THE FIRST
TRIAL.

KNOW THAT IF YOU
FALL, PUNISHER,
I WILL JOIN YOU SOON
ENOUGH IN THE COLD
LANDS, MY OWN BLADE
DRAGGED ACROSS
MY BELLY.

FOR IF
YOU DIE, YOU
WERE NEVER
THE ONE...

THE NEXT
IN A LONG LINE
OF THE MOST EXALTED
SLAYERS FROM
AROUND THE GLOBE.



"THE NEXT FIST
OF THE BEAST."

















I WATCHED...AS THE
CLOSEST I'VE EVER
HAD TO CHILDREN...THE
LOYAL NINJA I HAD
RAISED SINCE BIRTH...

...DIED IN
DROVES.



THEY DIED WITHOUT
A CRY. WITHOUT A
WHIMPER. WITHOUT
A SINGLE SOUND.



THEY DIED
LIKE NINJA.



I SAW MY SONS AND
DAUGHTERS RENDERED
INTO PUDDLES OF
VISCERA BY THE WALKING
MEAT GRINDER THAT
IS THE PUNISHER.



AND IT WAS...
BEAUTIFUL.

BEAST BE
PRAISED.



MAGNIFICENT!

NOW PLEASE
TELL ME, FRANCIS
CASTIGLIONE...



DOES ONE
OF THESE
BELONG
TO
YOU?



NO.
BUT THIS
DOES.

WHO
SENT
YOU?



YES, I
THOUGHT
YOU MIGHT
SAY THAT.

BUT WE
MAY HAVE
SOMETHING
THAT WILL
CHANGE YOUR
MIND.



I APOLOGIZE
FOR THIS INTRUSION
UPON YOUR SANCTUM. BUT
A TEST WAS REQUIRED. ONE
I WAS CONFIDENT YOU
WOULD PASS.



WE OF THE
HAND ARE NOT
HERE AS ASSASSINS.
BUT AS SAVIORS. WE
COME WITH AN OFFER.
THE CHANCE TO
FULFILL YOUR TRUE
DESTINY.

AND A
GIFT.



NOW
LOOK CLOSELY
AND TELL ME,
FRANK...



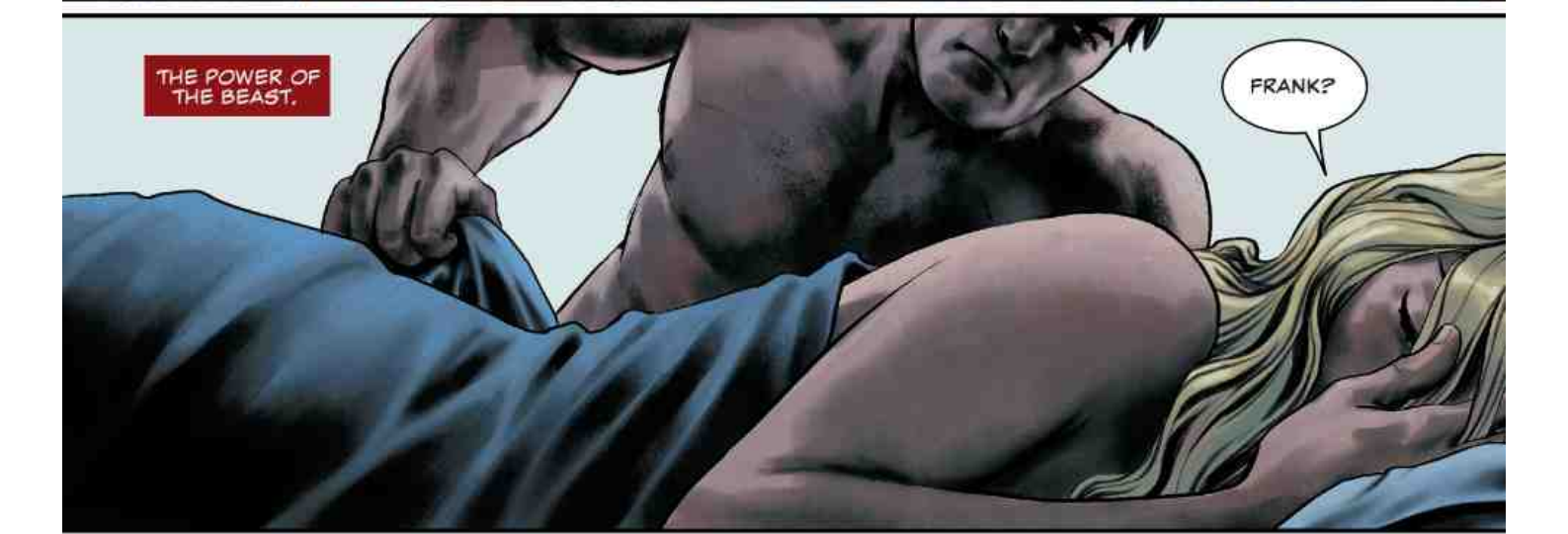
...DO YOU
SEE ANYTHING
THAT BELONGS
TO YOU?



IT WILL TAKE MORE
TIME, AND MUCH MORE
KILLING, BUT HE HAS
COME SO FAR ALREADY.



EVERY DAY, HE GROWS
STRONGER, CLOSER TO
UNLEASHING THE POWER
THAT HAS HIDDEN WITHIN
HIM FOR SO LONG.



THE POWER OF
THE BEAST.

FRANK?



A POWER THAT DEFIES
TIME, DEFIES THE
CHAINS OF THE FLESH
AND THE STEEL OF
OUR ENEMIES.

I
MISSED
YOU, MY
LOVE.

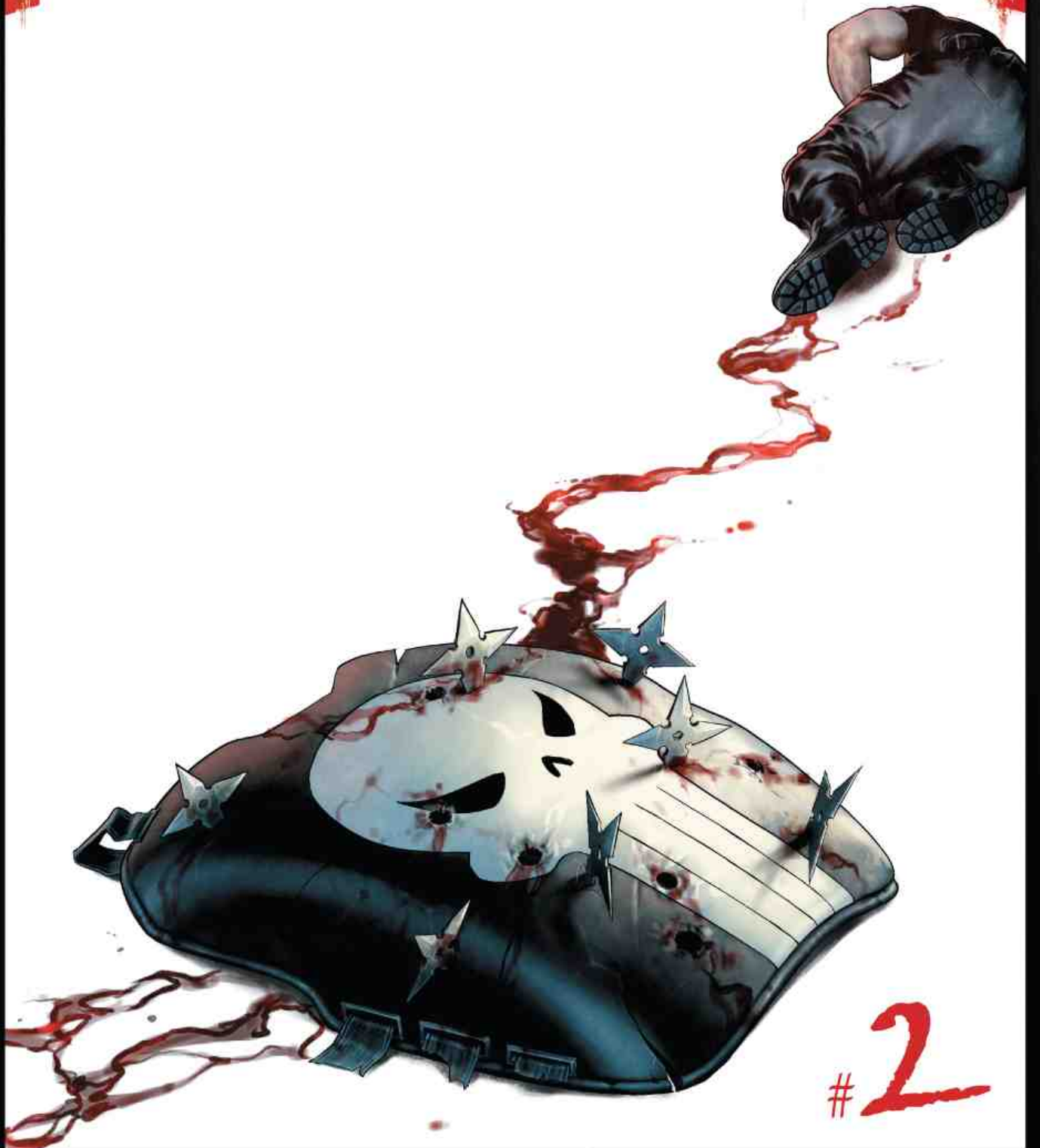
A POWER
THAT DEFIES
DEATH ITSELF.

I MISSED
YOU TOO,
MARIA.



NEXT:

PUNISHER



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